

## INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

( CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	USSR (Latvian SSR)	REPORT	
SUBJECT	1. City of Bauska 2. Prices, Wages, and Living Conditions in Bauska 3. Bauska Road Construction District	DATE DISTR.	26 July 1955
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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

1. Bauska (N 56-24, E 24-11) suffered severe damage during World War II, especially in the area near the bridge, where there is still much debris. The bridge was destroyed by German PWs, and many buildings have been rebuilt. A new section of the city, called New Bauska, has been built in the vicinity of the Russian Church. The settlement consists chiefly of small houses of two rooms and a kitchen. Farmers who wished to avoid joining the kolkhozes have also moved their houses to the outskirts of Bauska. 25X1
2. The population of Bauska consists now principally of voluntary Russian settlers, who come from various regions in the interior of the USSR and generally enjoy privileges not accorded the Latvians. Although Latvia is a Soviet Republic, Soviet officials receive extra pay for foreign service when assigned there. The military service is particularly well paid. Air Force and Marine officers receive the best pay, earning 1,200 to 16,000 rubles (sic) monthly, according to rank. Only about ten Germans, some of whom have obtained Soviet citizenship, remain in Bauska. A few Balts are still seen in the country, where they live in miserable circumstances. Mail is received only occasionally from relatives abroad, and packages from abroad are very rare. 25X1
3. Although rents are moderate in the Latvian SSR, the cost of living is high. [redacted] seven rubles per month for a small room with two beds. Five to seven cubic meters of wood were needed to heat the room during the winter. One cubic meter of firewood cost 50 rubles plus 15 rubles for transportation. [redacted] Prices at the market, held Wednesdays and Sundays in Bauska, are influenced by the Lithuanian farmers, who bring their homemade laces to sell. Representative prices paid in Bauska in 1954 are as follows:<sup>1</sup> 25X1

Item	Unit	Price in rubles	
Butter	1 kg	35	25X1
Bread	1 kg	1.50	
Bacon	1 kg	35	25X1

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STATE	X	ARMY	X	NAVY	X	AIR	X	FBI	X	AEC						
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(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#")

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

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-2-

Lard	1 kg	35 to 40
Beef	1 kg	18 to 22
Sausage	1 kg	18 to 35
Pork	1 kg	35
Veal	1 kg	15 to 18
Sugar	1 kg	9.50
Semolina	1 kg	4.50
Milk	1 liter	2
Egg	1	1 to 1.50
Chicken	1	15 to 30
Firewood	1 cu m	50 (plus 15 rubles for transportation)
Women's shoes	1 pr	150 to 250
Women's perlon stockings	1 pr	40 to 50

Vegetables are in good supply and moderately priced in the summer but not available in winter. Fish, such as small herring, are difficult to obtain.

4. [redacted] the Road Construction Office, called Celu ekspluatācijas iecirknis No. 11 [redacted] had its offices beyond the bridge in Bauska. The Latvian SSR is divided into 21 road construction districts, with the central office on Kirova iela in Riga. The Bauska district comprises Skaistkalne, Iecava, Vecumnieki, Valle, Taurkalne, and Dubz and employs 200 road construction foremen for the maintenance of first and second class roads. Recently, young Party members have begun to replace the old foremen who do not belong to the Communist Party. The roads in the Bauska district are generally in good condition and, except sometimes in fall and winter, can be used by automobiles. All the bridges damaged during the war are repaired. Material for road repair is in adequate supply, excepting bitumen, which is scarce. 25X1
5. The churches in Bauska are widely visited and are supported by their own congregations. Baptisms and confirmations take place regularly, although children are warned in school that they will be limited in their choice of profession and excluded from government positions if they are confirmed. Many Russians have their children baptized, often taking them to Riga or some other distant place in order to conceal their action from their compatriots. 25X1
6. The Latvian Dr. Selle enjoys a good reputation in Bauska and is able to obtain medicines necessary to his practice. The two dentists in Bauska are greatly overworked. Patients must often wait two months for treatment.
7. Assault and robbery are still a major problem in Bauska, although severe offences are punishable by death. It is considered dangerous for well-dressed people to wait long at the smaller railroad stops, and assaults on the open street are common.
8. Partisans are believed to live still in the Taurkalne woods, where German ammunition bunkers are said to be still in use. The population considers Ulmanis a national hero. Aizsargi who held no leading position have not been punished or persecuted.

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C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

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-3-

9. The entire population appears interested in political events. RIAS, BBC, and Voice of America broadcasts are widely received, and the people are well-informed concerning the international political situation. Although the police are aware that foreign broadcast reception is common, they do little to prevent or punish it.
10. In recent years, many Latvians arrested during the deportations of 1948 have returned, after serving their terms in such places as Murmansk and Irkutsk.

 Comment: Prices of butter and meat products listed are three to ten rubles higher than those previously reported for the Baltic area.

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